

Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

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R 110600Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3731
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7655

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER ISRAELI REACTION TO CARTER VICTORY

REF: TEL AVIV 7505

1. PRESS SPECULATION AND COMMENTARY ON SIGNIFICANCE FOR ISRAEL OF NEW ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO BE HEAVY. GENERAL THEME OF MODERATE SATISFACTION WITH ARTER VICTORY ALSO CONTINUES, IN KEEPING WITH INITIAL REACTION EXPRESSED ON THE MORROW OF ELECTION (REFTEL). AS THE DUST SETTLED, COLUMNISTS TOOK OVER FROM REPORTERS. SEVERAL TAKE HEART ALONG WITH DAVAR'S BLOCH THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND ITS PRESIDENTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN MORE SYMPATHETIC TOWARD ISRAEL BECAUSE THE INFLUENCE OF NEWS AND OTHER PRO-ISRAEL GROUPS IS GREATER AMONG DEMOCRATS. ON THE OTHER THAND, HAARETZ COLUMNIST SCHWEITZER WARNS THAT THE RIVALRY BETWEEN A REPUBLICAN WHITE HOUSE AND A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS, EXPLOITED IN THE PAST BY "ISRAELI PROFESSIONALS", MAY NO LONGER EXIST, THEREBY AFFORDING PRO-ISRAEL GROUPS LESS ROOM FOR MANEUVER.

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2. WRITING IN MAARIV, HARIF WAYS THAT ISRAEL NEED NOT

REGRET THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIONS AND PROCEEDS TO LIST CURRENT AND RECENT POINTS OF FRICTION WITH THE FORD ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER, HE WARNS ISRAELIS NOT TO DELUDE THEMSELVES, SINCE CARTER'S TALK OF POSSIBLE TERRITORIAL CHANGES DOES NOT INVOLVE MUCH DEVIATION FROM THE ROGERS PLAN. AND WHILE HE REFERS TO CARTER'S STATEMENTS THAT HE WOULD NOT IMPOSE A SOLUTION ON ISRAEL, HE OBSERVES THAT, LIKE KISSINGER, CARTER'S BASIC APPROACH IS TO SAFEGUARD ISRAEL'S SECURITY, IN ORDER TO PERSUADE HER INTO MAKING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS SO AS TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL PEACE STATEMENT.

3. GUINEY (YEDIOT AHARONOT) ANSWERS AFFIRMATIVELY THE QUESTION WHETHER ISRAEL SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH CARTER'S ELECTION AND THEREFORE PERMIT HERSELF TO FEEL SECURE. HE FEELS THAT THE U.S. HAS CHOSEN A MAN WHO THOUGH INEXPERIENCED CAN LEARN AND GROW INTO HIS POST AND BECOME A GREAT PRESIDENT. SUCH A PRESIDENT WILL RETURN TO THE U.S. HER SELF-CONFIDENCE AND RESTORE TO THE FREE WORLD ITS FAITH IN AMERICA AND HER LEADERSHIP. GUINEY STATES THAT CARTER IS NOT A STRANGER TO ISRAEL OR TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION AND IS WELL AWARE THAT A STRONG ISRAEL IS NECESSARY.

4. AMONG LEADING POLITICAL PERSONALITIES PUBLICLY PRESENTING VIEWS ON THE ELECTION, FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT KISSINGER WILL BE REPLACED. DAYAN WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED BY CARTER'S WARNING OF A COUNTER-BOYCOTT SHOULD A NEW ARAB OIL BOYCOTT BE IMPOSED. THE CURRENT DEFENSE MINISTER, SHIMON PERES, WAS QUOTED ON ISRAELI RADIO AS ALSO NOTING WITH SATISFACTION CARTER'S "UNEQUIVOCAL" POSITION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT AND ON THE ISSUE OF JERUSALEM. HE STATED THAT U.S./ISRAELI RELATIONS ARE SERIOUS AND DEEP ROOTED BUT "WE HAVE TO SELL WASHINGTON...WE SHALL BE UNABLE TO GIVE UP DEFENSIBLE BORDERS, AND JERUSALEM AND ITS VICINITY HAVE BEEN UNITED ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE FOR PARTITIONING." TOON

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